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Approved For Release 2006/05/24 : CIA-RDP80T00634A000400010004-8

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31 August 1978

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Assessment of Internal Security Situation in The Netherlands
As Related to Nuclear Materials and Facilities

The Dutch government is a fragile center-right Christian Democratic (CDA)-Liberal (VVD) coalition under the leadership of Christian Democratic Chief Andreas van Agt. Despite the serious problems and uncertain future that it still faces, the coalition is in a much stronger position now than when it took office in December 1977. The skills and confidence of van Agt and his cabinet have improved, the government has won a few battles, and the CDA is more cohesive and more popular among the voters.

Although the government faces no apparent risk to the physical security of nuclear material and facilities, any one of several leftwing extremist or terrorist groups could opt to focus on such targets. Any threat from the far left probably would come from one or more of the spate of Leninist, Maoist or Trotskyist organizations that have come and gone regularly over the past few years. Some of these groups, such as the Dutch Communist Unity Movement/Marxist-Leninist (KEN/ML), the Socialist Party (SP), the International Communist League (IKB), the League of Dutch Marxist-Leninists, and others, usually constitute themselves as political parties with broad social programs that go beyond an interest in terrorism as a weapon against the state. These groups, all of which are very small, have evolved through continuing process of merger and splitting. Many maintain tie with similar parties in other countries, but these contacts are minimal and relatively unimportant.

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Other leftist groups such as the Red Resistance Front, the 18 October Movement and several others are narrower in outlook and are more clearly interested in terrorism. They generally pattern themselves after the erstwhile Red Army Faction (RAF) in West Germany and the Japanese Red Army, but there is no evidence of any direct connection with the RAF before its demise or with Japanese radicals.

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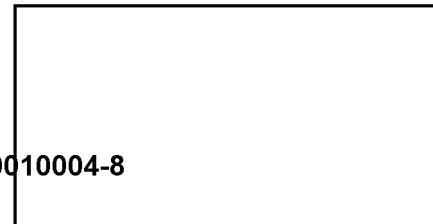


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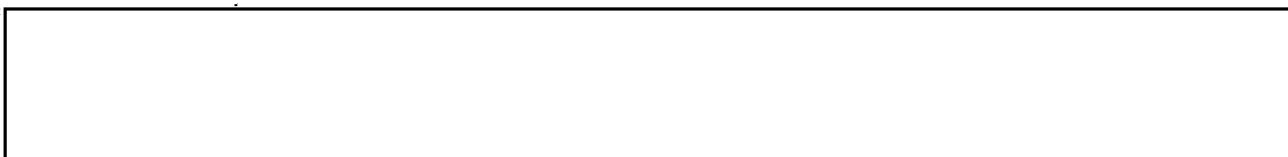
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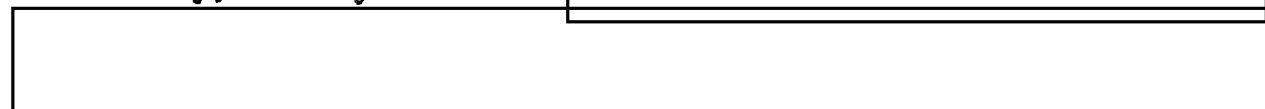
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The Moluccans, more a national liberation group fighting a lost cause than an organization of terrorists, are a special case because of their sporadic and highly publicized acts of violence since 1975. Acts of terrorism are supported by about 5 percent of the Moluccans living in The Netherlands, while the majority of the community favors pursuing independence for its homeland through negotiations. Attacks by the terrorists, which are particularly violent, have been against a variety of targets, including symbols of Dutch political authority. The Moluccans have been quiet since their attack in Assen in March and the subsequent trial, but reports abound as to what they will hit next. There is no evidence to indicate that the Moluccans plan to target nuclear facilities in the future, but the possibility can not be dismissed out of hand. Dedication to the cause remains strong among the young extremists, money is available from sympathizers, and weapons, reportedly smuggled into the country, are easy to obtain.

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Several mass based anti-nuclear groups, many of which have substantial ties to political groups within the country and to similar organizations throughout Western Europe, especially in France and West Germany, have confined their activity to peaceful demonstrations, marches and lobbying against nuclear power. Most of these groups, which are able to generate considerable anti-nuclear support among important political parties in Parliament, are comprised of broad-based religious, political and philosophical coalitions concerned with what they see as a threat to the environment from nuclear power. These groups would be a threat to the physical security of nuclear facilities only if demonstrations get out of hand, and during the past several years this has not happened. In some instances extremist groups have become involved in anti-nuclear demonstrations, but there is no evidence that they have been successful in any attempt to take over a group or exploit a demonstration. There certainly is some overlap in membership, however, between extremist and anti-nuclear groups. The Dutch Communist Party (CPN), which recently made peace with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union after years of chilled relations, has shown increasing interest in anti-nuclear demonstrations and propaganda during the past year. The CPN, a small, staid party of little intrinsic importance, is no threat to the physical security of nuclear installations, but is attempting to increase its influence by acting as a rallying point for anti-nuclear activity in the

- 2 -

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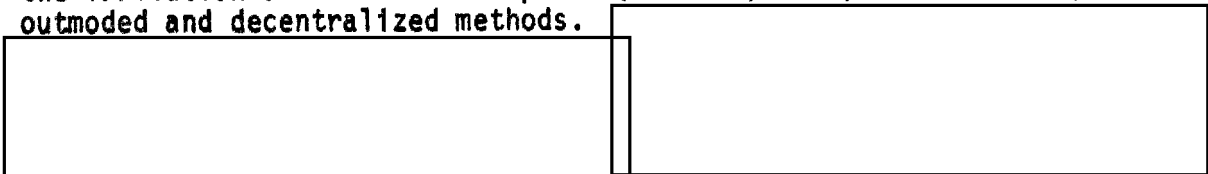
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Netherlands as well as throughout Western Europe. Rejuvenated and aided by its rapprochement with the Soviets who provided strong support, financial assistance and encouragement, the CPN played a major role in organizing the massive demonstration against the neutron bomb in March of this year.

Since the Moluccan attacks began about three years ago and with the upsurge of terrorism in Germany, the Dutch government has substantially upgraded its anti-terrorism capabilities. Plans to coordinate government response at the local and national levels have been implemented and special units have been set up to deal with terrorist situations. After an initial period of indecision, both the former Labor government and the present Christian Democratic-Liberal government have used swift and effective military action to end terrorist incidents. But critics point out that coordination still has not gone far enough and that, much to the irritation of the national police, municipal departments cling to outmoded and decentralized methods.



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- 3 -

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